



Four Years Harvest: Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria

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First: Report Methodology

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is a human rights organization founded in June 2011. SNHR is a neutral independent non-governmental, non-profit organization. We aim to document the human rights violations occurring in Syria, by periodically submitting research and reports with the highest levels of professionalism and objectivity, in order to expose those responsible as a first step to hold them accountable and to ensure victims' rights.

It should be noted that the UN depends on SNHR as the primary source for its statistics in analyzing the victims of the conflict, as well as several other Arabic and global news agencies along with other international human rights organizations.

SNHR mainly bases all of its reports and researches on the investigations done members inside and outside of Syria. These investigations are conducted through visiting and meeting with survivors or eyewitnesses. All the incidents mentioned in this report also exist in the form of extended reports and studies available and published in Arabic and English on SNHR website.

The international humanitarian law and international customary law along with the international human rights law are the laws acted by and they are binding to all conflict parties.

SNHR asserts that all of the facts and statistics in this study are only the minimum of the grave violations that have happened and are still happening in Syria from March 2011 until March 2015.





Second: Influential Parties:

a) Government forces:

Government forces include: All fighting forces from the Syrian army, intelligence, security and local militias such as the National Defense Army and others joined by the foreign Shiites militias that are fighting in Syria.

First: Violations in the treatment of civilians and armed men who are unable to fight:
Massacres and other acts of extrajudicial killing

From the beginning of the peaceful demonstrations in Syria during March 2011 until 10 March, 2015, SNHR has documented the death of 176,678 civilians who were killed at the hands of government forces including 18,242 children and 18,457 women. 11,427 of the 176,768 killed by government forces died under torture.

The percentage of women and children killed to the overall number of victims amounts to 19%. Such a high number of deaths explicitly suggests that the government forces have been targeting civilians by indiscriminate shelling and execution. Wednesday, 23 March 2011, the government forces opened fire on demonstrators who tried to sit-in to break the siege over Daraa causing the death of 47 including a child.

Friday, 29 April 2011, government forces fired live bullets on demonstrators who were in a sit-in, in front of the military security branch in Raстан in Homs causing the death of 15 people.

Friday, 3 June 2011, government forces killed 65 people where they opened fired on tens-of-thousands of demonstrators in the Al-Asi Square in Hama city.

Sunday, 4 September 2011, government forces stormed the town of Khan Shaykhun in Idlib, killing nine civilians, including a female child and a person with special needs where government forces opened fire randomly.

Friday, 27 January 2012, government forces fired on demonstrators in Marjah neighborhood in Aleppo, which caused the deaths of nine civilians.

Thursday, 31 May 2012, SNHR reported the deaths of 12 employees of the nitrogen fertilizer factory in Homs after being kidnapped at the Kattina checkpoint of the government forces. They were taken to a nearby farm, tortured and then field-executed by live bullets. Their bodies were disfigured.

Saturday, 23 June, 2012, government forces shelled Duma in Damascus suburbs, killing 10 civilians.

Wednesday, 22 May 2013, regime-supporting sectarian militias from As-Saboura





village field-executed 16 individuals from Jeb Al-Khasara village in Hama, including 3 women.

Wednesday, 18 December 2013, government forces shot civilians trying to flee from the town of Beit Sahem in Damascus suburbs, killing 45 people including eight women and one child.

Thursday, 21 November 2013, government forces bombed the Karam al-Shami neighborhood in Homs with mortar shells, which led to the death of 27 people including nine children according to SNHR.

Wednesday, 30 April 2014, government forces killed three civilians, including a child, in a missile strike on Sevat village in Aleppo.

Sunday, 21 September 2014, government warplanes missiles targeted two agricultural projects in the surroundings areas of Saracib in Idlib, which resulted in the death of 19 civilians, including nine children and six women.

Sunday, 2 November 2014, government forces stormed Karim village in the suburbs of Hama governorate, and opened fire randomly, causing the deaths of 15 including a child, and three women.

Thursday, 5 February 2015, government warplanes bombed Irbeen in Damascus suburbs, killing seven people, including two children and two women.

a) Arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention:

SNHR estimates the detainees number to be 215,000 cases at least. We have lists of more than half of them including 6,580 women and at least 9,500 children.

SNHR noted that the year 2011 was the worst for government forces in targeting doctors, journalists, lawyers, and artists, whereas 2012 was the worst in the matter of the number of detainees and missing individuals in addition to the wide targeting of women and children, where the percentage of detained and missing children reached 3% and women 4%.

The year 2014 has recorded a notable escalation in the targeting of people aged 22 to 40 by government forces, where government forces carried out mass arrest campaigns to conscript youth to fight on the government side.

Many of the detainees gradually became forcibly-disappeared as we gradually lost any information about their whereabouts as well as any means of communication, even with their families and friends.

Even though Syria is not a part of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, it is under the jurisdiction of the International Convention on Political and Civil Rights which forbids enforced disappearances. The Syrian government have perpetrated grave serious violations that qualifies as crimes against humanity through committing the crime of enforced





disappearance in a widespread and systematic manner. The number of forcibly-disappeared persons have exceeded 85,000 individuals.

During 2014, the Syrian government initiated settlements in a number of areas, as what happened in the Old City of Homs and Damascus suburbs. The settlement was between the government, on one side, and peaceful activists, armed opposition, or defected soldiers on the other side. However, government forces re-arrested most of those who agreed to the settlement with it, especially activists, we documented 1910 cases of post-settlement arrests since the beginning of 2014 mostly in Homs and Damascus suburbs.

Sunday, 27 February 2011, government forces arrested Bashir Farouk Abazid, 17, from Irben neighborhood in Daraa, along with 17 other youth from Daraa as well for writing things against the ruling regime. He was released by government forces on Sunday, 20 March 2011.



Mai Skaf, 44, an artist from the Syrian city of Damascus, was arrested by government forces on Wednesday, 13 July 2011 at a checkpoint in Mashrou'a Dummar neighborhood in Damascus, and was released on Friday, 15 July 2011.

Picture of the artist [Mai Skaf](#)

Mohamed Bashir Arab, 35, a laboratory doctor from Aleppo, former political detainee from 2004 to 2005, and an activist in the peaceful revolutionary movement, was arrested by government forces in Aleppo on Tuesday, 1 November 2011. He is still forcibly-disappeared to the moment of this writing.

Image : [doctor Mohammed Bashir Arab](#)

Akram Ruslan, 41, a Syrian artist from Soran in Hama, holds a degree in literature from the University of Damascus, a cartoonist who draws for several newspapers, including Al-Fida Syrian newspaper, was arrested by government forces on Tuesday, 2 October 2012 from his work place in Al-Fida newspaper in Hama, there were no news of him after that. He is still forcibly-disappeared to the moment of this writing.





Khalil Matouk, 54, a lawyer from the village of Mu-shayrifah in Homs, serves as the Executive Director of the Syrian Center for Legal Studies and Research, and the chief of the Defense Committee of Prisoners of Conscience and Opinion in Syria. On Tuesday, 2 October 2012 he was arrested by government forces at a checkpoint in Sahnaya in Damascus, and since then there has been no news about his whereabouts or fate. He is still forcibly-disappeared to the moment of this writing.



Mohammed Wael Saeed, 40, painter and photographer, a graduate of the College of Fine Arts where he majored in Photography, artist director in Tshreen newspaper. He was abducted by members of the local pro-government militias on Tuesday, 1 January 2013, while he was returning home from his place of work at Tshreen newspaper in Adra in Damascus suburbs, his fate still unknown.



[Leila Awad](#), a Syrian actress and member of the Syrian Artists' Syndicate, from Aleppo, a graduate of the High Institute of Theatrical Arts in Damascus, was arrested by government forces on Saturday, 14 December 2013, at the Lebanese-Syrian border point as she was going back to Syria. She was transferred to Al-Khatib branch of the State Security in Bab Mussala neighborhood in Damascus, and then to Adra prison for women. She is still detained without a trial until the date of the publication of this report.

Muhannad Bahjat al-Husseini from Kafr Nub in Idlib, a college student at the University of Aleppo, was arrested by government forces on Monday 6 January 2014, he was arrested from the campus of the University of Aleppo, and until the date of the publication of this report, SNHR has been unable to determine his whereabouts or fate.





Mustafa Khafteh, 15, a child from Jableh in Latakia, was arrested by government forces on Thursday, 28 August 2014, from his home in Jableh and until the date of the publication of this report, we cannot determine his whereabouts or fate.



Alaa Jamal al-Shammari, 30, an engineer from Muzeireeb Daraa, a graduate of the College of Agricultural Engineering University of Damascus, was arrested by government forces on Tuesday, 15 July 2014 while passing at a checkpoint near the Department of Agriculture in the city of Daraa, we could not determine his whereabouts or fate.



c) Torture in Detention Centers:

Hardly a day passes without the recording of five detainees' deaths, a daily average, due to torture by the documentation of victims team. Our meetings with tens survivors show that The most brutal torture takes place in the following security branches is: Military Intelligence Branch 215, which we named in an earlier report, "Syrian Holocaust", the Air Force Intelligence branch in Mazzah, and the branch of the Political Security and Air Force Intelligence in Aleppo, the Military Intelligence branch in Homs, and the Air Force Intelligence branch in Hama.

SNHR recorded that 11,427 people were tortured to death, including 94 children, and 32 women (the percentage of civilian exceeds 96%).

SNHR publishes a special monthly report on the most prominent victims of torture to confirm that this violent policy is still ongoing.

SNHR documented the death of Mohamed Mansour Khalid Al-Wahsh, media activist from Talbisa city in Homs, under torture on Monday 5 December 2011.

Sunday 9 September 2012 SNHR documented the death of pharmacist Abdul Hamid Mohamed Ali Hassanato, 53, from Hretan in Aleppo, under torture after he was arrested by government forces.

Basem Fawakhriji, media activist, from Latakia, was tortured to death on Wednesday, 4 December 2013.

We recorded the death of Mrs. Leila Abdul Rahman Halloumi, from Nabak in





Damascus suburbs, under torture after she was arrested by government forces on Monday, 27 January 2014.

Muhammad Munir Ousta, 19, a second year student at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Hama, was arrested by government forces on Wednesday, 26 November 2014. We recorded his death under torture on Sunday, 22 February 2015.

d) Sexual Violence:

Government forces have used the method of sexual assault against women detainees since 2011, which continued in 2015 as a systematic and deliberate public punitive method, whether it was to obtain information and confessions, or for retaliation or revenge against a family member. Many harassments happen during interrogating female detainees in government detention centers. Also, government forces adopted a rape strategy during the raids and incursions. We have recorded many cases of gang rape of members of entire families.

Victim (S. M.), nicknamed Um Riad from Aleppo, 25 years old, unmarried, a third-year student in the Faculty of Literature, Department of Arabic Literature, University of Aleppo. Arrested since the beginning of 2014 by government forces while videotaping security forces near the campus in the city of Aleppo. She was detained for an eight-month period in the Military Intelligence branch in Aleppo where six members of this section raped her daily for several months. These rapes happened in conjunction with beatings and torture. When she was released from the branch she was five month pregnant.

After her release from the branch on Saturday, 13 September 2014, at about two o'clock in the morning, «Um Riad» threw herself from the third floor of a building crushing her body, and also resulted in a miscarriage. The incident took place a month after being released from the detention center.

Hama - Sheikh Anbar neighborhood - Wednesday, 12 March 2014, government forces from the nursing home checkpoint raided the neighborhood around three o'clock, and when roaming in the neighborhood a member of the government forces stopped a woman in the road, and under the pretext of inspection, harassed her which prompted the women to scream and then he beat her and insulted her and then let her go after being held for half an hour.

e) Child Rights Violations:

Deliberate or indiscriminate shelling, especially in residential areas, doesn't distinguish between a child, a man, and a woman. The large number of deaths of children is an indicator on targeting residential areas, shelling indiscrimination and randomness, and lack of proportionality in attacks.

Since mid-March 2011, Government forces have killed 18,242' children, the most





brutal and violent deaths being 94 children who were killed in detention centers under torture that blatantly lack any consideration for their human nature.

Wednesday, 8 June 2011, government forces fired indiscriminately after storming Sraceb in Idlib, which caused the death of the child Ihab Khalil.

Sunday, 7 August 2011, government forces stormed Deir al-Zour city. Bullets were fired randomly, which caused the deaths of five children.

Friday, 25 May 2012, government forces militia carried out field executions of 49 children in the town of Hula in Homs, according to the records of SNHR.

Saturday, 9 June 2012, government forces killed 10 children after storming Bkas village in Al-Hefa, Latakia while shooting randomly.

On Thursday, 17 January 2013, government forces shelled Al-Hosseinieh a Palestinian refugee camp in the Damascus suburbs, which caused the deaths of seven children, according to SNHR documentation.

On Monday, 18 March 2013, a government warplanes bombed Marjah in Aleppo with six missiles, that caused the deaths of 17 children.

On Thursday, 26 June 2013, government warplanes targeted a residential building in eastern Karak in Daraa, which caused the deaths of 5 children.

On Wednesday, 30 April 2014, a government Sukhoi warplane launched a guided missile at a gathering of more than 400 children in Ein Jalout School in Ansari neighborhood in Aleppo, and subsequently killed 20 people, including 17 children.

On Tuesday, 21 October 2014, government forces killed 12 children in Nassib in Daraa, as warplanes bombed the town.

The siege imposed by government forces on some of the areas controlled by armed opposition such as Eastern Gouta, and Al-Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, and the neighborhoods of the Old City of Homs, in particular caused the death of 224 children, due to starvation and lack of medicine as a result of the siege.

Thursday, 16 February 2012, Ahmad Mohamed Ali Deleh a preterm infant from Hula in Homs, died after a military checkpoint prevented him from being transferred to a hospital that had an incubator.

Wednesday, 26 December 2012, the infant daughter of Talal Al-Kurdy died after her incubator stopped working due to a power outage from lack of diesel fuel needed to run the power, and thus the incubator as a result of the siege imposed on areas controlled by armed opposition factions areas.





Monday, 28 October 2013, Aya Sahli a one-day-old Palestinian resident of the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, died due to the unavailability of an incubator for babies, and as a result of lack of food and medicine because of the siege imposed on the camp.



Sunday, 12 January 2014, the siege and the lack of medicine caused the death of the young girl, Esra Al-Masri from the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus.

To read more, one can access the expanded study “Children of Syria ... A Lost Dream”, which documents the abuses and violations suffered by children in Syria since March 2011.

[Second violations related to the conduct of hostilities:](#)

A: Unlawful Attacks:

1. Artillery and Aerial bombardment:

Government forces have expanded the use of heavy weapons by the end of 2011, where tanks and armored vehicles surrounded the cities of Daraa, Hama and Homs, and used mortars in civilian neighborhoods and communities.

In mid-2012 the government forces began using the air force and intensify the use of helicopters and warplanes after losing control over large areas. This began with the end of 2012 using barrel bombs, scud missiles, and other weapons where indiscriminate shelling along the north and south characterized 95% of those attacks, characterized by excessive randomization, which does not distinguish between military men or civilians. The remaining 5% targeted the headquarters of the armed or military centers. Most of these attacks did not observe the principle of proportionality in force where the military headquarters, surrounded by buildings that are non-military.

SNHR has documented that government forces have used more than 5,150 barrel bombs between Monday, 1 October 2012, when barrel bombs were used for the first time, and Friday, 20 February 2015 causing the deaths of ‘12194’ people, more than 96% of them were civilians, and more than 50% of the victims were women and children.

Sunday, 14 August 2011, government forces shelled Al-Raml Al-Janoubi neighborhood in Latakia causing the death of a man and his wife.

Wednesday, 19 October 2011, government forces targeted a house in Al-Qsseir in Homs, and a tank shell caused the deaths of three girls from the same family.

On Friday, 29 June 2012, government forces killed nine people when it targeted a





civilian bus on the road to Al-Hussen Castle - Zara in Homs with a tank shell.

Sunday the 9th of December 2012, government forces targeted a popular market in the city of Deir Az-Zour Alqoryah with artillery shells that caused the deaths of 27 people, including 6 children and 17 women.

On Monday the 18th of February 2013 government forces shelled Mount Badro neighborhood east of Aleppo, which includes thousands of displaced persons from the neighborhoods of Aleppo, causing the deaths of 37 civilians, including 16 children and 7 women (2 of them were pregnant) according to SNHR documentation.

On Tuesday, 23 July 2013, government troops shelled residential neighborhoods in the city of Daraa Hara, killing 11 civilians, including two women and a child.

On Friday December 27th, 2013 government forces shelled Albgeiliah in Deir al-Zour with mortar shell; which caused the deaths of two children.

Friday, 7 March 2014, government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs on a residential building in the city of Daraa Nawa, causing the deaths of seven civilians, including four children and two women according to SNHR.

Sunday 16 March 2014 government warplanes dropped barrel bombs on the main market in the town of Ras Al Ma'ara in Damascus, causing the deaths of 14 civilians, including 4 children and a woman.

Saturday, 30 August 2014, government warplanes dropped four barrel bombs on a residential neighborhood in the city of Raftan in Homs, killing nine people, including a child and three women, one of them was pregnant, according to SNHR documentation.

Wednesday, 21 January 2015, government warplanes dropped five barrel bombs, four of which fell on the village of Tal of the city of Hula, and one on the village of Kafrlaha, which caused the deaths of 14 civilians, including two children and two women.

- Sniper attacks:

The sniping inside cities is characterized by the sniper stalking the victim and seeing the target clearly through the weapons telescope where he can be sure of his victim before shooting, which is similar to executions, as the killer here knows the identity of the victim and deliberately kills it, without regard or differentiation between a child or an elderly or a woman, and certainly without the knowledge of the victim's religion.

We recorded the deaths of 5,761 civilians, including 494 children, and 687 women, shot by government snipers.

We hope you access our expanded report 'Hunting Humans' issued by the SNHR, where we document the sniper attacks in Syria since the beginning of March 2011





though 23 October 2014.

Saturday, 17 December 2011, government forces' sniper killed Muhammad Ali Jamal by a shot in the heart while he was driving his car in Al-Wa'ar, Homs.

Sunday, 11 November 2012, government forces' sniper killed the child Ahmed Mahmoud Hijazi, in the city of Daraa Tafas.

Sunday, 15 December 2013, government forces' sniper killed Ms. Zakia Hamada in Al-Hajr Al-Aswad neighborhood in Damascus.

Friday, 10 January 2014, government forces' sniper killed two people in Al-Wa'ar Homs.

Wednesday, 4 February 2015, government forces' sniper killed Mr. Abbas Ibrahim Saeed in the neighborhood of Bustan al-Basha in Aleppo.

B: Protected persons specifically include:

1. Hospitals and workers in the medical sector:

Government forces continued targeting hospitals, medical centers, pharmacies, as well as the repeated targeting of medical personnel by immediate death, torture, kidnapping or harassment. Government forces killed 445 activists from medical personnel, including 15 women, in addition to the damage to at least 256 hospitals and medical access points that have been targeted during the past four years. SNHR notes that we issue a monthly report on the targeting of medical facilities and staff.

Sunday, 8 May 2011, government forces killed a nurse and paramedic [Mowaffak Hassan Dakhil Allah](#), age 42, from the city of Daraa Tseel, after shooting him while he was aiding the wounded.

Wednesday, 7 September 2011, a government forces checkpoint in the old Homs targeted an ambulance belonging to the Red Crescent, that was trying to transport a patient, which caused the injury of three paramedics, and the death of a medic named Hakam Dariq Sibai- on Thursday, 15 September 2011.

Monday, 26 September 2011, government forces arrested a psychiatrist Mohammed Abu Hilal from his place of work in the city of Daria Damascus suburbs, and was released on a Saturday in June 2012.

Syrian Network for Human Rights has documented government forces targeting Al-Hikmah hospital in Al-Inshat neighborhood in Homs with mortar several times during the month of February, 2012.





Saturday, 15 September 2012, government forces arrested a member of the Red Crescent in Duma Damascus suburbs. Mohammed al-Masri, is still detained as of the writing of this report.



Wednesday, 7 November 2012, government forces shelled the city of Idlib Sracb; which caused the deaths of Dr. Fadia Abboud.

Thursday, 20 December 2012, government forces killed nurse Mohammad Khaled al-Homsi while he was aiding the wounded as a result of the shelling, which targeted the city of Kfar Batna Damascus suburbs.

Saturday, 5 January 2013, Rami Bedawi, doctor and director of a field hospital, died due to wounds endured from a bombing that was carried out by government forces on Idlib Ma'art An-Numan.

Tuesday, 15 January 2013, warplanes targeted Karnaz hospital in Hama, causing substantial material damage to the hospital building.

Monday, 18 February 2013, SNHR documented the death of doctor Musab Omran Hakim from Al-Midan in Damascus, from torture, after his arrest by government forces in the beginning of 2012.

On Thursday, 15 May 2014, government warplane bombs targeted Daraa Jassim field hospital with a missile what caused major destruction to the hospital. SNHR has recorded the deaths of five people, a doctor, 3 nurses, and a child.

Monday, 28 July 2014, government forces targeted a medical point in Al-Nashabiyah Damascus suburbs with mortar shell, causing the deaths of two doctors working in the medical point.

Iyad Hussein al-Homsi, a doctor, from Daraa station in Daraa, aged 45, left behind a wife, his son and three daughters. He worked in Orient hospital in Daraa, and the makeshift hospital in Al-Herak. Security forces raided Orient hospital and arrested those who were inside on Monday, 17 February 2014. The security forces informed his family of his death on Sunday, 3 August 2014.

Friday, 30 January 2015, government forces targeted a medical access point with a surface to surface missile, in Jobar neighborhood in Damascus, which led to great material damage.





2. Workers in the religious field and cultural facilities:

Government forces deliberately targeted places of worship such as mosques and churches, and also used some as bases around bombed area, we have recorded the targeting of at least 2,044 houses of worship by government forces. SNHR issues monthly reports about the targeting of all these vital facilities.

Sunday 9, September 2011, government forces bombed a church in the neighborhood of Marlian in Saliba Alasiati, Homs; which caused the destruction of the church building.

On Friday, 23 November 2012, government forces targeted Shafei mosque in Yalda Damascus suburbs with mortar bombs, causing the destruction of the mosque compound.

Mid-September 2012, the Archdiocese of the Syrian Catholic was targeted with mortar shell twice by government forces, according to SNHR documentation

On Friday, 8 February 2013, government forces' recruits stormed into the Virgin Mary church in the city of Haraṣta in Damascus, and ruined its contents and smashed its furniture.

On Friday, 22 December 2013, government forces targeted the President mosque in Al-Wa'ar by a tank shell, causing destruction in the mosque, and the death of mosque preacher Sheikh Safwan Masharaqah.

On Friday, 17 January 2014, government forces shelled the Madeira mosque in Damascus by a mortar shell, causing the deaths of 19 civilians, including two children.

On Wednesday, 16 April 2014, government warplanes targeted Lady of Peace Church in Homs, causing mass destruction in the church structure.

Sunday, 27 April 2014, Omari mosque -one of the most ancient mosques in the city of Bosra Sham Daraa- was shelled with five artillery shells from government forces; which led to damage to the minaret of the mosque.

Sunday, 4 January 2015, government warplanes targeted The Grand Mosque in Duma with a missile, killing three people and damaging the mosque structure.

Government forces exploit the monastery canon in Mhardeh west of Hama, as a military headquarters, where heavy artillery mechanisms, and military vehicles are based while shelling the nearby towns and villages.





3-Journalists:

Government tactics continue to target the media and journalists. Varied abuses to their rights are practiced by the government; such as murder and detention. Government forces killed 393 media personnel, that includes four women. 15 of which were arrested and tortured to death.

Tuesday, 9 August 2011, SNHR documented the death of media activist Rawhi Fayeze Naddaf- from Zamalka Damascus suburbs- from torture after his arrest on Sunday 7 August 2011.

Wednesday 22 February 2012 government forces shelled Baba Amr in Homs, causing the deaths of American journalist Marie Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik.

Friday, 20 December 2013, government forces killed Reuters journalist and cameraman [Mulham Barakat](#) in Aleppo.



Saturday, 8 March 2014, Canadian journalist Ali Mustafa was killed by government forces; as a result of barrel bombs shelling on Alhaidariya neighborhood in Aleppo, Ali was a freelance journalist born in Canada with an Egyptian father and a Canadian mother.

On Tuesday, 22 July 2014, Asa'ad Bgrok 'Shamna' magazine director and founder; dies from his wounds after being hit by aerial bombs on Martyrs' Square in Aleppo, northern Hureytan on Friday, July 18th.

On Tuesday, 17 February 2015, SNHR documented the death of journalist Abdo Mufalanai after being shot by government forces in the city of Daraa, Sheikh Maskeen.

C - The Use of Unlawful Weapons:

1. Chemical Weapons:

Government forces used gases believed to be toxic, including chlorine gas, at least 103 times, and in 40 locations in Syria, leading to the deaths of 950 people, including 40 of the armed opposition members, 7 prisoners of the government forces, and 903 civilians, including 187 children and 162 women.

Also at least 3,200 others were injured.





On Sunday, 23 December 2012, government forces targeted Al-Bayada and Deir Ba'alba in Homs with poisonous gas, causing the deaths of six people and wounding at least 60 others; including 10 serious cases, 4 cases of paralysis and 3 cases of blindness.

On Saturday, 13 April 2013, the government helicopters dropped two gas shells on Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood in Aleppo, known for its mostly Kurdish residents. These shells caused the deaths of five people, including two babies, in addition to 12 others who were poisoned as a result of inhaling the poisonous gas.

On Wednesday, 21 August 2013, government forces shelled areas in the eastern and western Ghota of Damascus with more than 10 missiles loaded with poisonous gas, causing the deaths of 813 people, including 172 children and 148 women.

On Thursday, 22 May 2014, the whole Kafr Zeta city and Atshan villages in Hama and Altmanah in Idlib were hit with more than four barrel bombs loaded with poisonous gas.

More details can be found in our report dated, 7 March 2015, entitled: '71 violations of Security Council resolution 2118 through 71 poison gas attack'.

- Cluster munitions:

The use of cluster munitions is forbidden because it is a discrimination weapon. Despite condemnation from 113 countries around the world for its use by government forces, nothing has changed, similar to condemning the use of poison gas, and barrel bombs.

Cluster munitions have killed 289 people, including 76 children and 38 women, meaning that almost half of the victims are women and children.

During the year 2014, government forces usage of cluster munitions was higher than other year and SNHR has documented at least 95 attacks. These attacks have caused the deaths of 48 people, including 16 children and 4 women, and caused the injury of 250 others directly. The remnants of these munitions have caused the deaths of 28 people, including 19 children and 3 women.

Aleppo alone was targeted 34 times in nearly 23 locations. On Tuesday, 18 March 2014 cluster munitions were used by government forces against four neighborhoods in the city of Aleppo, which are: Sheikh Fares, Sheikh Khader, and Baedeen, and Bustan al-Basha.

Hama was hit with 18 strikes 11 of them in Kafr Zeta City, and on Friday the 1st of August 2014, warplanes launched a missile carrying cluster munitions at one of Maarzaf town orchards. Remnants of the missile exploded after a group of children approached it, killing 11 people, including six children and two women from the same family.





More details can be found on the SNHR report issued on 11 October, titled: ‘The Syrian Regime is the worst in the world in terms of the use of cluster munitions, where we have documented the 83 use of cluster munitions.

D) The siege:

Government forces followed the policy of imposing siege on areas under armed opposition control, as is the case in East Gouta and Daria in Damascus, the ongoing siege has led to the spread of cases of malnutrition and dehydration, as well as the spread of a number of epidemics due to the accumulation of waste, environmental pollution, and damage in sewage networks. All together this has led to the deaths of 730 people, including 224 children and 212 women.

Government forces applied sieges to the old neighborhoods of Homs since the end of June 2012 where military checkpoints surrounding neighborhoods banned entry of food, medical supplies and blocked out the families, civilians and wounded, and continued the siege for more than 680 days. Until February 2014, when families were evacuated under United Nations and the Red Crescent supervision.

On Saturday, 1 December 2012, Mr. Zakaria Shamshan, aged 76, from the town of Darya Damascus suburbs died of an illness due to the lack of necessary food available as a result of the siege imposed on the Eastern Ghouta.

Government forces have imposed a siege through its barriers across Al-Wa’ar neighborhood in Homs on Thursday, 10 October 2013, which currently stands as of the time of this report; in order to wear down the people, and the imposition of peace settlements or coercive agreements for nearly 15 thousand families. These barriers are used as a sort of warfare, where it prevents the entry of food, medicine, and fuel, with the exception of rare cases under pressure or extortion.

On Saturday, 31 August 2013, SNHR documented the deaths of two children in Moadamieh Damascus suburbs, as a result of malnutrition due to the siege imposed on the Ghoutas.

Friday, 14 March 2014, Omran Rateb Khatib, a child, died in Duma Damascus suburbs, as a result of the lack of food and medicine due to the siege imposed by government forces on Eastern Gouta.

On Monday, 8 September 2014, the government forces cut off the water all over the Yarmouk refugee camp and Al-Tadamon neighborhood in Damascus. The water supply is still cut off.

Highlighted violations practiced by the Shiite militias fighting in Syria:

Late in 2011, armed opposition fighters arrested members belonging to the Shiite leader of Iraq’s Moqtada al-Sadr’s Mahdi Army, which frequent reports indicated that he is recruiting fighters and sending them to Syria, despite his public denial,





until recently. The most prominent in the presence of Shiite factions in Syria was in the summer of 2012, when Abou El Fadl Abbas brigade appeared, and encouraged the fighting in Syria to protect the general Shiite shrines and the shrine of Sayyida Zainab especially. It coincided with the sectarian propaganda broadcasted over variety of media from daily newspapers to satellite channels to social media.

Recruitment of Shiite fighters from several factions fighting under the banner of Abu al-Fadl al-Abbas. Lebanese Hezbollah openly entered the conflict in April 2013 in Al-Qssair and its surroundings which was an important turning point in the nature of the regional Shiite fighting loyal to the regime. The subsequent months have seen another turning point in the presence of Shiite factions in Syria, where it began to show more clearly factions formally affiliated with factions based in Iraq, including the meaning of publicly fighting alongside the regime for most of the political and military Shiite forces in Iraq, even the Iraqi government, which is working to facilitate the recruitment of fighters, in addition to the actual evidence that suggests their involvement in the fighting.

In the period between Monday, 2 April 2012, until Monday, 9 April 2012 members of the local Shiite militias from the villages of Hazmieh, Kathimiya, and Mukhtariya surrounding Deir Ba'alba in Homs broke into the neighborhood on the April 2, 2012, and committed horrific massacres in the neighborhood, which included field execution, and rape of women, accompanied by the abuse of corpses and burned or buried in mass superficial graves.

SNHR team managed to document 199 deaths, including 21 children and 20 women. Wednesday, 27 February 2013, government forces backed by members of the foreign and local Shiite militias stormed Maalikiya village in Aleppo, with no apparent reason but to terrorize and intimidate the people. Large number of villagers, including children, women, elders and youth were executed, in addition to the operations of physical torture and burning of homes sprayed with gasoline and ignited across the village.

SNHR team was able to record 69 civilians -from Maalikiya- were killed that day, including 5 children, and 3 women.

Saturday, 22 February 2014, members of Abu Fadl Abbas brigade arrested a number of young people from the cultural center building in the town of Khanasser Aleppo, and then took them out of the building and gathered them in the public arena where they were blindfolded, put against the wall and shot profusely. 26 young men died that day.





On Saturday, 21 February 2015, government forces and Shiite militias loyalists committed a massacre in the village of Hardntin in Aleppo, after kidnapping more than 320 people from the nearby village 'Ratyan' and using them as human shields during their withdrawal, SNHR documented the deaths of 48 civilians, including 10 children and 5 women from both Ratyan and Hardntin, while they released the remaining hostages. Most of the bodies were discovered inside a village school after armed opposition gained control.

Robberies:

After the killings, executions and massacres in the southern suburbs of Aleppo, the suburbs east of Aleppo, and people running away from their homes, the Shiite militias systematically rob the homes, as it has happened in each of the following villages and towns: (Khanasser, Hamam, Alqrabatiyeh, Hajeirah, Obeida, Um Mayyal, Um Amoud, Al-Qubtain, Junaid, Al-Zera'ah, Malikiyah, Adnaniyah, Assfeirah).

In some towns (Tell Aran, Tel Hasel, Kabara, Tel Alm, and Balat), Abou El Fadl Abbas militia seize control of the houses and fully settle there.

Conclusions:

Government forces have committed a variety of crimes of extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, torture, and other crimes that amount to crimes against humanity; because of its methodology and scope of capacity together. Government forces have also committed war crimes through the siege, indiscriminate shelling, and destruction of facilities and buildings. The Syrian government has not stopped violating international humanitarian law and customary law, and has also breached Security Council resolutions, particularly 2118 concerning the non-recurrence of the use of poison gas, and the resolution in 2139, the previous resolutions 2042 about releasing the detainees, and all without any accountability, as they have legitimacy from the Russian-Chinese cover and the western silence.

B: violations of Kurdish forces:

1. Extrajudicial Killings:

Party of the Democratic Union of Kurdish forces (PKK branch in Syria), both Kurdish public protection forces, and Asayish forces committed several violations in the areas controlled by them, extrajudicial murder, detention, torture, and forced recruitment.





The number of victims who were killed by Kurdish forces is 493 people, distributed as follows:

- 242 civilians, including 21 children and 31 women.
- 251 militants from the opposition.

Monday, 19 November 2012 Kurdish forces killed 3 people in Ras Al-Ein in Hasakah.

Saturday 26 April 2013, SNHR documented the death of 5 people in the village of Tal Nimr in Hasakah, after being shot by Kurdish forces.

On Saturday, 13 September 2014, Kurdish protection forces raided the villages of Tel Hamees and Al-Hajeyah in Hasakah, and executed 42 people, including 15 children and 3 women, among the dead were also teachers from the village school.

Saturday, 17 January 2015, Kurdish security forces killed Mr. Alwan Bato after storming Atshan village in Hasakah, when he refused to give them his own car.

2. Detention and enforced disappearances:

The Kurdish protection forces civilians arrest policy concentrated on the aim of conscription. In addition to activists who belong to opposing political parties, where the number of detainees documented by SNHR is about 805 people: including 69 children and 43 women, who were exposed to the conditions of detention and torture. Also, five died due to these conditions. The number of forced disappearances is 279 people.

Abdul Rahim Altkhubi, age 31, from Amouda in Hasakah, a media activist in the revolutionary movement. He was arrested by Kurdish protection forces members on Thursday, 9 July 2013 from his place of residence in Amouda, but was later released.



In mid-July of 2014, Rudy Haji Khalil was killed, in one of the Kurdish protection forces “Asayish” of the Democratic Union Party “ypg” detention centers. His body was handed over to his family bearing signs of torture.

Jameen Sadik Ahmed, a 14-year-old girl, from Qahtaniyah in Hasakah, was kidnapped by Kurdish protection forces on Tuesday, 4 November 2014, from Khawla daughter of Azore School at gunpoint with the help of students in the Kurdish Revolutionary Youth, which had lured the girl to the campus of the school where she was then kidnapped by Kurdish protection forces.





Lazquin Barakat, 26 years old, from the town of Afrin, Aleppo, was arrested by members of the Kurdish protection forces on Thursday the 9th of December 2014, from his residence in the town of Afrin. SNHR had not received any information indicating his release until this moment.

Image of [Mr.Lazquin Barakat](#)

[Neros Hussein Hussein](#), 17, from the town of Afrin, Aleppo, was arrested by Kurdish protection forces on the 14th of January, 2015 with the aim of forced recruitment.

A: The Violation at the hands of extremist groups:

1. ISIS:

- Extrajudicial killings:

SNHR has documented 3,967 deaths at the hands of ISIS since its creation in April 2013.

Distributed to:

— 1,054 civilians, including 145 children and 159 women.

— 2,913 militants from the opposition.

All of which are through either executions, indiscriminate shelling, or torture.

Thursday, 25 July 2013, SNHR recorded the deaths of nine civilians, including three women and a child, after a car bomb from ISIS exploded in Jaramana Damascus suburbs.

Monday, 13 August 2013, we recorded the deaths of two people. One of them a field paramedic who was killed in an ISIS car bomb explosion at the train station in the city of Raqa.

Wednesday, 8 January 2014, SNHR recorded the deaths of nearly 50 detainees, including civilians and journalists, in a children hospital in Aleppo at the hands of ISIS, before their withdrawal the city.

On Friday, 2 May 2014, one of ISIS' members called Ahmed Tunisian detonated a car bomb in the village of Jadrine that has an Alowian majority; that caused the deaths of 17 civilians, including 10 children, 3 women, and wounded about 50 others. During August 2014, ISIS killed more than 196 of the people in the area Alshaitat, Graneej, Abu Hamam, and Alkoshkieh in Deir Az-Zour, and forced thousands of people to flee the area.

On Thursday the 1st of January 2015, Mr. Ali Ihsan Rizk Neuf from Aqarb in Hama was killed as he was charged with apostasy after being kidnapped by ISIS on Tuesday,





30 October 2014 with his father. His father was executed on Tuesday, 25 November 2014.

B - Detention and enforced disappearances:

SNHR reported that the extremist groups, arrested at least 3,914 people, including about 487 children, and 520 women, while the number of forced disappearances reached 1,471.

Father Paolo Dall'oglio, a 59-year-old Italian, a Christian cleric and peace activist called for dialogue between religions moved in between the provinces of Syria before and during the revolution. On Sunday the 7th of July 2013, Father Paolo was kidnapped when he was going to Raqa across the Syrian-Turkish borders, as of now, his fate remain unknown, and it is mentioned that Father Paolo was abducted by unknown group in the area controlled by ISIS.



[Basil Abdul Razzaq](#), a 22-years-old activist from Raqa, was arrested by armed members of ISIS on Friday, 4 April 2014. Basil's fate remains unknown.

[Muhannad al-Fayad](#), 28, an activist from the city of Raqa, was arrested by armed members of ISIS on Tuesday, 8 July 2014.

[Iyad Rafe'a Alsbekhan](#), 39, an activist in the medical field and radiation technician from HAJEEN Deir Az-Zour, was arrested on Sunday, 18 January 2015, by the armed members of ISIS from his place of residence.

Detainees of ISIS are exposed to torture and detention conditions that are very brutal, which have caused the deaths of 12 people.

[Mohammed Abdu al-Taha](#), age 75, from Al-Bab, Aleppo, one of the elders of the City, on was arrested on Thursday, 5 June 2014 by armed members of ISIS. He was later released on Tuesday, 2 September 2014, and his body showed the severe effects of torture. He was later transferred to a Turkish hospital and died on Sunday, 14 September 2014; as a result of being beaten on the head during the period of his detention.





On Sunday the 16th of November 2014, Mr. Zuhair Alkhbas was arrested by ISIS members from his home in the city of Deir Az-Zour Al-Mayadeen, and was tortured to death in an ISIS prison after about 7 days.

- Restrictions on the population:

Regulations imposed by ISIS in urban areas that are under their control of discriminatory laws, and imposed penalties for any opposition, after gaining full control over Raqa and its surroundings, ISIS issued a statement on the 20th of January 2014, including in its provisions instructions that affect the lives of people and their privacy, with regard to their livelihood, movement in the city, and even dress. These regulations are not limited to Raqa, but include all areas controlled by ISIS.

ISIS prevents women from travel unless they are wearing certain clothes (wide cloak, hijab, veil, and gloves), and they are not able to go out unless accompanied by 'a man', such as her husband or those she is forbid to marry (father, brother, son, uncle,.....etc), and they are warned that any breach of the rule will be punished.

D: Forced displacement:

At the end of the month of July 2014, ISIS issued a warning notice for 24 hours, demanding the population of the towns of rural Deir Az-Zour (Akoshkih, Abu Hamam, Graneej, Abu Hrdob, Jerthie, Swidan Jazeera, Al-Asharah, Mhgan) to leave after clashes that happened between ISIS and the people of those towns. ISIS considered each of these towns a military target after the deadline expiry.

In mid-September 2014, ISIS expanded its military campaign to include eastern and southern rural area named Ein Al-Arab in Aleppo that has a Kurdish majority, and has displaced about 150 thousand of the inhabitants of those areas for fear of ISIS terrorism; displacement reached many villages and towns in Hasakah as well.

2. An-Nusra Front:

1. Extrajudicial killings:

An-Nusra Front killed 331 people distributed as follows:

- 258 civilians, including 44 children and 60 women.
- 73 of the opposition militants.

On Friday, 27 April 2012 a member of An-Nusra front detonated an explosive belt near Zaid El Abidine mosque and Aisha school in Al-Midan Damascus, which caused the deaths of three people, including two children.

Saturday, 19 May 2012, SNHR documented the deaths of four civilians, including a child in a car bomb from the An-Nusra Front that exploded in Masaken Ghazi Ayyash in Deir Az-Zour.





On Monday the 21st of January 2013, one of the An-Nusra Front members detonated a car bomb at the headquarters of the carpet factory in As-Salamiyah in Hama, which is the headquarters of the Committees pro government forces; that caused the deaths of 14 civilians; including 6 children, 3 women, in addition to wounding more than 56 others, who are residents of the buildings next to the carpet factory.

Saturday 26 January 2013 An-Nusra Front issued a [statement adopting the bombing](#)

Wednesday, 6 November 2013, a member of An-Nusra Front detonated a car bomb near the Air Force Intelligence branch in the city of Sweida, SNHR recorded the deaths of two women who were passing by the targeted building.

On Thursday, 7 November 2013, An-Nusra Front issued a [statement](#) claiming the bombing.

On, Wednesday the 9th of April 2014, two car bombs exploded in Karm Al-Looz – Al-KHudari St. in Homs, where it was detonated remotely by An-Nusra Front members.

SNHR documented the death of 21 civilians including 8 women, 3 children, and injuring about 104 others, 30 of them severely wounded.

On Thursday, 10 April 2014 An-Nusra Front issued a [statement](#) claiming the bombing.

On Wednesday, 10 December 2014, members of the An-Nusra Front executed civilians by shooting them dead in the public arena in Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, in front of a crowd of people from the neighborhood, on charges of insulting divine self.

Sunday, 3 August 2014, members of An-Nusra Front executed Ms. Fatima Sheikh Khalil, in the city of Homs Talbiseh, on charges of witchcraft.

On Saturday, 24 January 2015, An-Nusra Front executed Mr. Rashid Rabee'a in front of the Palestine mosque in the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, on charges of insulting the divine self.

On Sunday, 15 February 2015 SNHR documented the death of [Mr. Muddar Abdul Aziz Aldeub](#) of Khan Shaykhun City Idlib who was tortured to death in An-Nusra Front prisons, after reviewing the courthouse in the city at the request of call on Friday 30 January 2015.

B - Detention and enforced disappearances:

The number of those detained by An-Nusra Front is estimated to be at least 1236 people, including 53 children and 30 women, of whom at least 269 people were forcibly disappeared.





On Saturday, 15 November 2014, An-Nusra Front members arrested Mr. Arif Khatib, 65, from the Arrami village in Idlib. Arif Khatib is a Syrian writer and storyteller, and a member of the Arab Writers Union, SNHR has not received any information that indicates he has been released.

Media activist Jawdat Malas, 19 years old, from Ma'art An-Numan, was arrested on Tuesday 28 October 2014, when An-Nusra Front members raided the headquarters of his media activity, he was to be released on Saturday 6 December 2014.

Image of media activist [Jawdat Malas](#)

Ahmed Mohammed Nassouh, 41 years, from Al-Barah city in Idlib, was a former military commander in the faction "Syria Rebels Front" one of the armed opposition factions. During the outbreak of the conflict between the Syria Rebels Front, and An-Nusra Front, he retired from fighting and was arrested by An-Nusra Front on Saturday, 25 October 2014. His fate is still undetermined.



Wathab Al-Azou, 28, a media activist from the city of Idlib Sracb, was arrested as he passed an inspection barrier near Taftanaz military airport in the suburbs of Idlib on Wednesday 7 January 2015 by armed members of An-Nusra Front

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2pa2B5VWhEOVIJRdi1hS2pmc1k/view?usp=sharing>

Conclusions:

Extremist groups have violated numerous basic rights, such as the right to life, and have practiced numerous violations such as torture, and forced disappearance, all of which amount to crimes against humanity; as well as many other war crimes such as the non-discriminated shelling, and the processes of displacement, looting, kidnapping and torture.

D: Violations committed by some of the armed opposition factions:

A) Extrajudicial killings:

Numerous armed factions opposed to the Syrian government committed many violations, represented by indiscriminate mortar shelling over the areas controlled by government forces, and this caused the deaths of a large number of the civilian population, mainly in the neighborhoods of Damascus and Aleppo, we have documented the deaths of 1,787 people distributed as follows:





- 1,649 civilians, including 360 children and 427 women.
- 138 of opposition militants themselves, and that is during the engagement between themselves.

Monday, 27 August 2012, SNHR documented the death of Isa Al Rayes killed in Abbasyeen neighborhood in Damascus, as a result of mortar shells fired from one of the armed opposition's factions on Abbasyeen neighborhood.

Wednesday, 7 August 2013, one armed opposition faction bombed President Square in Jaramana with mortar shells, causing the deaths of 5 people, 3 children and 2 women.

Wednesday, 4 December 2013, the armed opposition bombed Furqan neighborhood in Aleppo with mortar shells, causing the deaths of 19 civilians, including 3 children and a woman.

Saturday, 4 October 2014, a mortar shell from the armed opposition landed over a park in Sheikh Al-Thulth of Idlib, which caused the deaths of four civilians, including 3 children.

On Thursday, 17 April 2014, "Martyrs of Badr Brigade" shelled neighborhoods of Ashrafieh, Saif Ad-Dawla, Jabriya, As-Sabeel, and Nile St. in Aleppo with mortar shells, causing the deaths of 25 civilians, including 8 children and 6 women, and wounded 83 civilians, at least.

Thursday, 1 January 2015, four mortar shells and a local Hell missile from the armed opposition based in Ar-Rashdeen region in the south, fell on the local market area in Al-Shuhda neighborhood next to As-Sayydeh Nafisa mosque in New Aleppo neighborhood in Aleppo; which caused the deaths of 16 civilians, including 3 children, and 3 women.

B - Detention and enforced disappearances:

SNHR recorded the factions of the armed opposition, arrested no less than 2,029 people, including 1,036 children, 875 women, and the number of forced disappearance is more than 1,610 people.

SNHR recorded 15 people who were tortured to death by the hands of some of the armed opposition factions.

[Hatem Tyseer Shibley](#) a 9-year-old kid from Ballutta village in Latakia, was arrested with his family following the storming of the villages of the suburbs of Latakia by armed members of the opposition factions on Sunday, 8 August 2013.

Riad al-Khuraqi, age 36, of Jobar neighborhood of Damascus, who is a judge in a judicial office in East Ghota, was arrested, then released on the same day on Sunday, 23 March 2014, by armed members belonging to the Islam Army faction.





Sami Aibo, 19 years old, from the village of Susumbat of the Aleppo suburbs, an activist in the Syrian Kurdish Revolutionary Council and Kurdish coordinating fraternity, was taken from his place of residence in Al-sakhur neighborhood in Aleppo on Sunday, 23 November 2014, by members of one of the armed opposition factions. There were no information about him until the moment of preparing this report.



Conclusions:

Previous cases document that a number of factions are committing crimes such as undifferentiated and indiscriminate shelling, torturing detainees, as well as robberies and theft in different areas, all of which amount to be war crimes.

E: Violations of international Coalition Forces:

International coalition forces began their military campaign against ISIS on Tuesday, 23 September 2014, and launched numerous raids on Raqa, Deir Az-Zour, and Idlib, these attacks, according to SNHR recordings have killed 103 civilians, including 11 children and 11 women.

On Tuesday, 23 September 2014, a coalition warplane raided the east of Kfredrian village in Idlib, and targeted four chicken corrals as they are headquarters for An-Nusra Front, two of which were the headquarters of weapon and ammunition. After the bombing, explosions continued in the headquarters for a few minutes longer due to the explosion of the ammunition and missiles stored in the warehouse. The enormous pressure caused by the explosion led to the collapse of a residential two-story house, close to the warehouses, less than 100 meters away from them. 13 people, all civilians were killed, including 5 children and 5 women.

On Sunday, 28 September 2014, a coalition aircraft targeted a small factory that produced plastic near the old bridge in Raqa. As a result the owner of the factory, named (Ismail Ilabou) died and we are unaware if there is a military headquarters for ISIS nearby.

Sunday, 11 January 2015, an international coalition aircraft launched an airstrike on an electric oil refinery (oil separator), located in the area near the town of Al-Shibli fields in the eastern Deir Az-Zour suburbs, which caused the deaths of four civilians, including petrol engineer in addition to the complete destruction of the refinery.





Recommendations:

To the Security Council: We only ask the council to stand by and apply its resolutions issued on Syria, including Geneva 1 statement, because the maintenance of security and peace in Syria are the council's direct responsibility.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
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